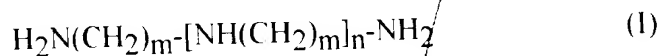


CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub B1
1. A fuel oil composition comprising a major proportion of a liquid hydrocarbon middle distillate fuel oil having a sulphur concentration of at most 0.05% by weight, and a minor proportion of a dispersant additive obtained by reacting, in a molar ratio A:B in the range 4:3 to 1:10, (A) a polyalkenyl derivative of monoethylenically unsaturated C₄-C₁₀ dicarboxylic acid material in which the number average molecular weight (M_n) of the polyalkenyl chain is in the range from 850 to 1150 with (B) a polyamine of general formula



wherein m is in the range from 2 to 4 and n is in the range from 1 to 6.

2. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyalkenyl chain is derived from a polymer of at least one C₂-C₅ monoolefin.

3. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the monoolefin is isobutylene.

4. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein n is in the range 1 to 3.

5. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein n is in the range 1 to 3.

6. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6:5 to

1:2.

7. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6:5 to

1:2.

8. The fuel oil composition of Claim 4 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6:5 to 1:2.

9. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.

10. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.

10 11. The fuel oil composition of Claim ~~4~~ wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.

12. The fuel oil composition of Claim 6 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.

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13. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 40 to 200 ppmw active matter based on total composition.

14. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 which additionally contains a lubricity additive in an amount in the range from 50 to 500 ppmw based on total composition.

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15. A process for the preparation of the fuel oil composition of Claim 1 which comprises admixing the dispersant additive or an additive concentrate containing the dispersant additive with the fuel oil.

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16. A process for the preparation of the fuel oil composition of Claim ~~15~~ which comprises admixing the dispersant additive or an additive concentrate containing the dispersant additive with the fuel oil.

17 A method of operating a compression-ignition engine which comprises introducing into the combustion chambers of said engine the fuel oil composition of Claim 1.